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Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services

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Organizational matters

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board in 2018

Contents

First regular session 2018 (22 to 26 January 2018)

Number		*Page*
2018/1	UNDP Independent Evaluation Office workplan, 2018-2021	3
2018/2	UNFPA quadrennial evaluation plan, 2018-2021	3
2018/3	Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2016	4
2018/4	Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2018	5

Annual session 2018 (4 to 8 June 2018)

2018/5	Report of the UNDP Administrator on results for 2017 and progress on the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021	8
2018/6	UNDP evaluation	9
2018/7	Report on results achieved by the United Nations Capital Development Fund in 2017	10
2018/8	United Nations Volunteers programme: Report of the Administrator	11
2018/9	Draft revised UNFPA integrated budget, 2018-2021	11
2018/10	Annual report of the UNFPA Executive Director	12
2018/11	UNFPA evaluation	14
2018/12	Annual report of the UNOPS Executive Director	14

18-17218X (E) 221018

Please recycle

2018/13 Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigations and management responses 15

2018/14 Reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS. 17

2018/15 Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2018. 18

Second regular session 2018
(4 to 7 September 2018)

2018/16 UNDP structured funding dialogue 21

2018/17 UNDP evaluation 22

2018/18 UNFPA structured funding dialogue 23

2018/19 Revised UNFPA integrated budget, 2018-2021 25

2018/20 United Nations Office for Project Services 26

2018/21 Joint report on cost recovery 27

2018/22 Working methods of the Executive Board 28

2018/23 Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its second regular session 2018 . 29

2018/1
UNDP Independent Evaluation Office workplan, 2018-2021

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office workplan for 2018-2021 (DP/2018/4);

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of evaluation as an essential tool for learning and accountability, and urges UNDP to ensure that adequate resources are provided for evaluation, in compliance with the evaluation policy as endorsed in decision 2016/17 approving the UNDP Evaluation Policy, and in keeping with expectations set out in the UNDP integrated resources plan and integrated budget estimates, 2018-2021 (DP/2017/39);

3. *Notes* the decision of the Independent Evaluation Office to change its procedures for evaluating UNDP country programming, in order to achieve full evaluation coverage of all country programmes prior to the Board's consideration of new country programme documents, as guided by decision 2015/8;

4. *Takes note* of the Independent Evaluation Office review of the quality assessment of 2016 decentralized evaluations and encourages UNDP to continue ensuring improvement in the quality of decentralized evaluations;

5. *Acknowledges* the corporate/thematic evaluations that the Independent Evaluation Office has proposed to carry out during this four-year period, and views them to be relevant to UNDP objectives and programming under the new Strategic Plan;

6. *Requests* that UNDP and the Independent Evaluation Office seek out opportunities with other United Nations agencies for joint evaluations of joint programming, as well as the common chapter of the Strategic Plan;

7. *Looks forward* to an update from the Independent Evaluation Office on any potential implications for UNDP regarding the United Nations development system evaluation function, including through the annual report on evaluation;

8. *Decides* to approve the workplan of the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office for 2018-2021.

26 January 2018

2018/2
UNFPA quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan, 2018-2021

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the relevance and utility of the quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan for 2018-2021 (DP/FPA/2018/1);

2. *Acknowledges* the transparent and participatory process undertaken in developing the quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan for 2018-2021;

3. *Affirms* the importance of evaluation as an essential tool for learning and accountability, and urges UNFPA to ensure that adequate resources are provided for evaluation, in line with the quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan, 2018-2021 and in compliance with the evaluation policy as endorsed in decision 2013/21 approving the UNFPA Evaluation Policy;

4. *Encourages* UNFPA management to work with the Evaluation Office to continue its efforts to strengthen the implementation rate and coverage of decentralized evaluations and to use the evaluations as learning and knowledge management tools to enhance future programmes;

5. *Requests* that UNFPA and the Evaluation Office seek out opportunities with other United Nations agencies for joint evaluations of joint programming as well as the common chapter of the strategic plan;

6. *Looks forward* to an update from the Evaluation Office on any potential implications for UNFPA regarding the United Nations development system evaluation function, including through the annual report on evaluation;

7. *Approves* the quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan for 2018-2021.

26 January 2018

2018/3
Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2016

The Executive Board

With regard to UNDP:

1. *Takes note* of the report (DP/2018/7) on the actions taken by UNDP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the further actions planned to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the financial period that ended on 31 December 2016;

2. *Notes* the unqualified audit opinions issued by the Board of Auditors for 2016;

3. *Also notes* the progress made by UNDP and UNCDF in addressing the top seven audit-related priorities in 2016-2017;

4. *Encourages* UNDP to make further efforts to implement outstanding audit recommendations and in particular to strengthen efforts to tackle recurring recommendations;

5. *Welcomes* continued efforts by UNDP to strengthen the quality of programme design, management and oversight, and requests UNDP to take steps to strengthen implementation of risk management practices at all levels;

6. *Encourages* UNDP to continue its efforts to enhance oversight and management of implementing partners, ensuring policy and assurance requirements are appropriately implemented across the organization, and that compliance is monitored;

7. *Further encourages* UNDP to continue its efforts to prevent and uncover procurement irregularities and other fraudulent practices and to improve actions for recovery of funds, and underscores the importance of protecting whistle-blowers and ensuring that whistle-blower protections are both robust and well-known;

8. *Notes* the relevance of the priority improvement areas identified in the report of the Board of Auditors for the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 as well as the development of the working plan of engagement with the Board in this regard;

9. *Requests* UNDP to address in the upcoming review of the UNDP Policy against Fraud and Other Corrupt Practices the observations and recommendations of the Board of Auditors to thoroughly review the underlying circumstances that led to the cases of

fraud, to identify the possible gaps and to develop a comprehensive anti-fraud strategy to minimize fraud risks and associated loss;

10. *Supports* ongoing UNDP and UNCDF management efforts in addressing and implementing the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the year ended 31 December 2016;

With regard to UNFPA:

11. *Takes note* of the report (DP/FPA/2018/2) on the actions taken by UNFPA and the further measures planned by the organization to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the financial period that ended on 31 December 2016;

12. *Notes* the audit opinion by the Board of Auditors that UNFPA financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of UNFPA as at 31 December 2016 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS);

13. *Also notes* the progress made by UNFPA in addressing prior year's recommendations and support ongoing management efforts in implementing the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the year ended 31 December 2016;

14. *Encourages* UNFPA to make further efforts to implement outstanding audit recommendations, and in particular to strengthen efforts to tackle recurring recommendations;

15. *Also encourages* UNFPA to continue its efforts to enhance oversight and management of implementing partners, ensuring policy and assurance requirements are appropriately implemented across the organization, and that compliance is monitored;

16. *Further encourages* UNFPA to continue to strengthen its approach to procurement, supply chain and inventory management in accordance with the recommendations of the Board of Auditors;

With regard to UNOPS:

17. *Takes note* of the report (DP/OPS/2018/1) on the progress in the implementation of the various recommendations made for the year ended 31 December 2016 and the efforts currently in progress to ensure that the remaining recommendations are successfully implemented;

18. *Acknowledges* that due to the fact that recommendations were issued to UNOPS towards the end of July 2017 and that many of them require long-term attention, UNOPS will need to work beyond the financial year 2017 to implement them successfully.

26 January 2018

2018/4
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2018

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its first regular session 2018, it:

Item 1
Organizational matters

Elected the following members of the Bureau for 2018:

President: H.E. Mr. Jagdish D. Koonjul (Mauritius)
Vice-President: H.E. Mr. Chull-joo Park (Republic of Korea)
Vice-President: H.E. Ms. Besiana Kadare (Albania)
Vice-President: Mr. Tumasie Blair (Antigua and Barbuda)
Vice-President: Mr. Dominique Favre (Switzerland)

Adopted the agenda and approved the workplan for its first regular session 2018 (DP/2018/L.1);

Approved the reports of the second regular session 2017 (DP/2018/1) and special session 2017 (DP/2018/2);

Adopted the annual workplan of the Executive Board for 2018 (DP/2018/CRP.1);

Approved the tentative workplan for the annual session 2018;

Agreed to the following schedule for the remaining sessions of the Executive Board in 2018:

Annual session: 4 to 8 June 2018
Second regular session: 4 to 7 September 2018.

UNDP segment

Item 2
UNDP country programmes and related matters

Approved the regional programme documents for the period 2018-2021 for Africa (DP/RPD/RBA/3), Asia and the Pacific (DP/RPD/RAP/3), Arab States (DP/RPD/RAS/4), Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (DP/RPD/REC/4) and Latin America and the Caribbean (DP/RPD/RLA/3 and Corr.1);

Approved the following UNDP country programmes in accordance with decision 2014/7:

Africa: Burkina Faso (DP/DCP/BFA/3 and Corr.1); Cabo Verde (common country programme, DP/FPA/OPS-ICEF/CCPD/2018/CPV/1); Gabon (DP/DCP/GAB/3); Ghana (DP/DCP/GHA/3); Mauritania (DP/DCP/MRT/3);

Asia and the Pacific: Myanmar (DP/DCP/MMR/2); Pakistan (DP/DCP/PAK/2)

Arab States: Djibouti (DP/DCP/DJI/3); Egypt (DP/DCP/EGY/3); Jordan (DP/DCP/JOR/3); Somalia (DP/DCP/SOM/3);

Item 3
Evaluation

Adopted decision 2018/1 on the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office workplan, 2018-2021;

Item 4
United Nations Capital Development Fund

Took note of the UNCDF strategic framework, 2018-2021 (DP/2018/5);

Item 5
United Nations Volunteers

Took note of the United Nations Volunteers programme strategic framework, 2018-2021 (DP/2018/6);

UNFPA segment

Item 6
Country programmes and related matters

Approved the following UNFPA country programmes in accordance with decision 2014/7:

Central African Republic (DP/FPA/CPD/CAF/8), Djibouti (DP/FPA/CPD/DJI/5); Egypt (DP/FPA/CPD/EGY/10); Ghana (DP/FPA/CPD/GHA/7); Jordan (DP/FPA/CPD/JOR/9); Mauritania (DP/FPA/CPD/MRT/8);

Approved the common country programme for Cabo Verde (DP/FPA/OPS-ICEF/CCPD/2018/CPV/1);

Item 7
Evaluation

Adopted decision 2018/2 on the UNFPA quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan, 2018-2021;

UNOPS segment

Item 8
United Nations Office for Project Services

Heard the UNOPS Executive Director give a statement;

Joint segment

Item 9
Recommendations of the Board of Auditors

Adopted decision 2018/3 on the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, related to the following reports: UNDP and UNCDF: Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2016 (DP/2018/7); UNFPA: Follow-up to the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors for 2016: Status of implementation of recommendations (DP/FPA/2018/2); and UNOPS: Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2016 (DP/OPS/2018/3);

Item 10
Other matters

Also held the following briefings and informal consultations:

Joint briefing of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women on cost recovery;

UNDP

UNDP briefing on cost recovery;

UNFPA

UNFPA informal briefing on change management.

24 January 2018

2018/5
Report of the UNDP Administrator on results for 2017 and progress on the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the achievements made by UNDP in 2017, the cumulative performance of UNDP for the period 2014-2017 and progress made on the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 (DP/2018/10);

2. *Urges* UNDP to utilize lessons learned from the Strategic Plan, 2014-2017 in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 to meet the annual milestones and targets set out in the integrated results and resources framework (IRRF) for all development and institutional effectiveness outputs;

3. *Recognizes and welcomes* the progress in populating the IRRF for the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 and requests UNDP to continue to refine and improve the IRRF as it continues to implement its Strategic Plan;

4. *Recognizes* the inter-agency efforts being made to advance the common chapter and requests UNDP to continue consultations with United Nations funds and programmes on the harmonized format for common chapter reporting;

5. *Welcomes* the mentioning of the common chapter in the annual report and asks UNDP to report on the status of the implementation of the common chapter, starting with the annual report 2019, and to present the findings at the joint meeting of the Executive Boards and at the annual session;

6. *Recognizes and welcomes* the strategic engagement and financial contribution of UNDP to the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) and United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and requests the Administrator of UNDP, in case of the need for additional information, to provide annual updates to reflect the results achieved by these contributions in an annex to the annual report, to ensure that the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations and Independent Evaluation Office include UNCDF, UNV and UNOSSC in their workplans and to provide an update to the Board on progress by the second regular session 2018 to help inform deliberations;

7. *Expresses appreciation* to UNDP for its longstanding and strong commitment and support to the resident coordinator system and back-office support to United Nations country teams, and acknowledges the importance of UNDP country support platforms and support to countries in their efforts to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

8. *Requests* UNDP to continue to engage with the Secretary-General, other United Nations development system (UNDS) entities and Member States with a view to support full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, including its contribution to a smooth transition and business continuity of the resident coordinator system;

9. *Requests* UNDP, as a UNDS entity, to engage closely with the Secretary-General and Member States to support preparation of a well-thought-out implementation plan for the inception of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, including on the operationalization of its funding arrangements, to be presented to the General Assembly;

10. *Also requests* UNDP to present a preliminary analysis of the financial and other implications of resolution 72/279 for UNDP to the Executive Board at the second regular session 2018;

11. *Further requests* UNDP, in accordance with resolution 72/279, to provide its contribution to the adequate, predictable and sustainable funding of the resident coordinator system, in line with the forthcoming implementation plan for the inception of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system to be presented to the General Assembly, on an annual basis starting 1 January 2019;

12. *Welcomes with appreciation* the engagement with the Executive Board on the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, and requests UNDP to continue dialogue with the Executive Board that UNDP continue to update its working plan of engagement in response to the implementation of resolution 72/279;

13. *Recalls* decision 2017/20 on UNDP structured funding dialogues in which UNDP was asked to present a proposal to the Board at the second regular session 2018 on how to improve the functioning of the dialogues;

14. *Encourages* UNDP to allow for increased interactivity with Member States by beginning preparations for the structured funding dialogues early and by providing the Board with a detailed overview with resources linked to outputs in the integrated results and resources framework, 2018-2021 as well as an overview of funding gaps in relation to the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, taking into account both regular and other resources;

15. *Notes* that UNDP did not report on progress against the gender equality strategy for 2017 as in previous years, looks forward to the gender equality strategy presentation at the second regular session 2018 and expects thereafter that yearly reporting on progress against the gender equality strategy will resume in the annual session.

16. *Welcomes* the Administrator's commitment to implementing resolutions 71/243 and 72/279 and in this regard encourages the secretariat of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board to work together with the secretariats of the UNICEF and UN-Women Executive Boards to produce a joint response to the 2018 joint meeting of the Executive Boards segment on working methods by no later than four weeks before the second regular session 2018, allowing for a consultation process among Member States ahead of that session.

8 June 2018

2018/6
UNDP evaluation

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the annual report on evaluation and its addendum (DP/2018/12 and Add.1) and requests UNDP to address the issues raised;

2. *Recalls* decision 2018/1 approving the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) workplan, and encourages the IEO, building on existing work, together with the Administrator and the heads of the associated entities – the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the United Nations Volunteers programme and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation – to ensure that each entity has appropriate monitoring and evaluation frameworks, in line

with UNDP best practice, in particular its fiduciary, transparency and due diligence practices, and to update the Executive Board on this work at the second regular session 2018;

3. *Further recalls* decision 2018/1 and takes note of the importance of joint evaluations with other entities, including joint evaluation of the common chapter of the strategic plans of the funds and programmes, and calls on IEO and UNDP to brief the Executive Board at the second regular session 2018 on planning for this joint evaluation as part of its contribution to broader collaboration on joint evaluations of system-wide activities and to the function of system-wide independent evaluation measures;

4. Recalling decision 2017/12, *notes with concern* the quality of decentralized evaluations and encourages UNDP to work with the IEO to continue its efforts to improve the quality, strategic planning and prioritization of decentralized evaluations, as well as improving the implementation rate and reporting of management responses to the findings;

5. *Calls* on UNDP to continue progress on outstanding recommendations, including with regard to institutional effectiveness, and ensure they take both a risk-informed and result-based approach to implementing those recommendations, as well as to use evaluations as an evidence base for learning and improvement.

8 June 2018

2018/7
Report on results achieved by the United Nations Capital Development Fund in 2017

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report on cumulative and annual results achieved by UNCDF as captured in the report (DP/2018/13);

2. *Welcomes* the progress made towards implementation of the new UNCDF strategic framework, 2018-2021 (DP/2018/5);

3. *Commends* the efforts of UNCDF to track its contributions to broader ecosystem and market development impacts and to share lessons from these efforts with Member States and through its peer network, to inform the work of others;

4. *Welcomes* the positioning of UNCDF as an innovator and de-risker of local finance solutions in hard-to-reach and excluded areas, and reiterates the importance of innovative finance solutions for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Further welcomes* the ongoing efforts of UNCDF to design and test "last mile" financing solutions, including by optimizing its financial toolbox and developing new public and private partnerships;

6. *Notes* the funding scenarios in the new strategic framework and the limitations created due to the shortfall in regular resources, and the impact this has on the number of least developed countries served, the robustness of the UNCDF country presence, its capacity to drive innovation and its capital investment flexibility;

7. *Supports* the funding objectives of UNCDF, including $25 million per year in regular resources, and in this regard calls on Member States in a position to do so to support more equitable burden-sharing in order to help UNCDF to achieve this goal.

8 June 2018

2018/8
United Nations Volunteers programme: Report of the Administrator

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the results-oriented biennial report of the Administrator on the United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) (DP/2018/14);

2. *Expresses appreciation* to all United Nations Volunteers and UN Online Volunteers mobilized by UNV for their outstanding contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during the 2016-2017 biennium;

3. *Commends* UNV for the results achieved under its Strategic Framework, 2014-2017, including during the 2016-2017 biennium;

4. *Welcomes* the new Strategic Framework, 2018-2021 (DP/2018/6), based on the strategic guidance of General Assembly resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and on the findings and recommendations of the independent evaluation of the previous Strategic Framework, taking note of the finalized results matrix;

5. *Welcomes* the organizational transformation of UNV in 2017-2018 and the decentralization of capacities and delegation of authority from headquarters to the regional and country levels, enabling UNV to be better 'fit for purpose' for its new Strategic Framework;

6. Recalling decision 2017/31, paragraph 8, *notes* the importance of regular resources provided by UNDP to deliver on its Strategic Framework;

7. *Reaffirms* the crucial role of the Special Voluntary Fund to the delivery of the UNV Strategic Framework, 2018-2021, calling upon all development partners in a position to do so to contribute to the Fund;

8. *Requests* UNV to report annually to the Executive Board on the delivery of the UNV Strategic Framework.

8 June 2018

2018/9
Draft revised UNFPA integrated budget, 2018-2021

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the draft revised UNFPA integrated budget, 2018-2021;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made by UNFPA in revising the UNFPA integrated budget, 2018-2021.

3. *Commends* UNFPA for the interactive and transparent engagement with Member States on the integrated budget, and requests UNFPA to continue this engagement on the integrated budget and to inform the Board on the impact of the comprehensive resources review implementation on the budget;

4. *Encourages* UNFPA to align the revised integrated budget, 2018-2021 and to continue to position its organizational structures in the most efficient way to reach the outcomes and outputs as set out in the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, including the organization's mandated work to provide normative guidance to Member States;

5. *Welcomes* the UNFPA resource mobilization ambition to increase funding by $100 million over four years for the integrated budget, 2018-2021, notes with appreciation the shift from the institutional to the programme budget, and encourages UNFPA to continue to allocate resources to programming;

6. *Requests* UNFPA to conduct risk-informed income projections and budgeting under the integrated budget, 2018-2021, to be adopted at the second regular session 2018, to safeguard appropriate levels of funding at country offices and programmes in order to ensure the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021;

7. *Also requests* further details from UNFPA on its Reserve for Field Accommodation.

8 June 2018

2018/10
Annual report of the UNFPA Executive Director

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the documents that make up the annual report of the Executive Director for 2017: DP/FPA/2018/4 (Part I, Part I/Add.1 and Part II);

2. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made by UNFPA in achieving the results of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2014-2017;

3. *Requests* UNFPA to continue to engage with the Secretary-General, other United Nations development system (UNDS) entities and Member States, with a view to support full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, including its contribution to a smooth transition and business continuity of the resident coordinator system;

4. *Requests* UNFPA, as a UNDS entity, to engage closely with the Secretary-General and Member States to support preparation of a well-thought-out implementation plan for the inception of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, including on the operationalization of its funding arrangements, to be presented to the General Assembly;

5. *Also requests* UNFPA to present a preliminary analysis of the financial and other implications of resolution 72/279 for UNFPA to the Executive Board at the second regular session 2018;

6. *Further requests* UNFPA, in accordance with resolution 72/279, to provide its contribution to the adequate, predictable and sustainable funding of the resident coordinator system, in line with the forthcoming implementation plan for the inception of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system to be presented to the General Assembly, on an annual basis starting 1 January 2019;

7. *Commends* UNFPA for its work to improve future structured funding dialogues, and in this regard encourages UNFPA to start early the preparations for the dialogues and provide in advance an overview of funding gaps in relation to the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, taking into account both regular and other resources;

8. *Recognizes* the inter-agency efforts being made to advance the common chapter, and requests UNFPA to continue consultations with United Nations funds and programmes on the harmonized format for common chapter reporting;

9. *Welcomes* the mentioning of the common chapter in the annual report, and asks UNFPA to report on the status of the implementation of the common chapter, starting with the annual report 2019, and to present the findings at the joint meeting of the Executive Boards and at the annual session;

10. *Requests* UNFPA management to brief the Executive Board before the second regular session 2018 on the implementation of the seven recommendations of the evaluation of the architecture supporting the operationalization of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2014-2017, and to update the Board on any implications of these recommendations for the comprehensive resource review, the integrated budget, and implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021;

11. *Takes note* of progress made implementing decision 2017/14, which emphasized the need for UNFPA to continue to improve transparency in the use of resources to achieve programme results and to enhance organizational effectiveness and efficiency, and which also requested UNFPA to present in its future financial planning and reports a higher level of detail on the way regular (core) resources are attributed and used, and requests UNFPA in its future annual reports to continue to improve the visibility and the results achieved with regular (core) resources;

12. *Encourages* UNFPA to make further progress on results-based budgeting approaches;

13. *Recalls* decision 2017/14 and recognizes the inter-agency efforts made to harmonize the report's methodology and format, in particular on the common chapter, and requests UNFPA to continue consultations with United Nations funds and programmes for further alignment of reporting;

14. *Also recalls* decision 2017/14 and urges UNFPA to continue to align its results architecture with the Sustainable Development Goals framework, in coordination with other United Nations funds and programmes, to help measure performance in supporting implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

15. *Further recalls* decision 2017/14 and requests UNFPA to include in its future annual reports a more detailed analysis and reflection on the challenges and lessons learned per outcome area and on the collaboration and coordination within the United Nations system;

16. *Expresses concern* about the negative effects of decreased regular resources on achieving the outputs of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, and in this regard, urges all Member States in a position to do so to increase their contributions to regular resources, also encourages Member States to make contributions during the first half of the year and to make multi-year pledges in order to ensure effective programming, and requests UNFPA to continue to explore incentives and mechanisms to broaden the donor base and attract new sources of funding;

17. *Welcomes* the UNFPA Executive Director's commitment to implementing resolutions 71/243 and 72/279, and in this regard encourages the secretariat of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board to work together with the secretariats of the UNICEF and UN-Women Executive Boards to produce a joint response to the 2018 joint meeting of the Executive Boards segment on working methods by no later than four weeks before the second regular session 2018, allowing for a consultation process among Member States ahead of that session.

8 June 2018

2018/11
UNFPA evaluation

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the present report on the evaluation function of UNFPA, 2017, and of the programme of work and budget of the Evaluation Office in 2018;

2. *Notes* findings from the independent external review of the evaluation function of UNFPA, which indicate that the UNFPA evaluation function is independent at corporate and decentralized levels, and urges UNFPA management to continue to protect and safeguard the qualities of evaluation independence identified by the external review;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts made by UNFPA and the significant progress achieved in strengthening the evaluation function and the quality of evaluation in actively contributing to United Nations system-wide evaluation efforts, and in fostering efforts for national evaluation capacity development;

4. *Reaffirms* the role played by the evaluation function at UNFPA and underscores the importance of high-quality, independent evaluation evidence in the context of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, and its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

5. *Requests* UNFPA to present a revised evaluation policy to the Executive Board at its first regular session 2019;

6. *Recalls* decision 2018/2 and takes note of the importance of joint evaluations with other entities, including joint evaluation of the common chapter of the strategic plans of the funds and programmes, and calls on the Evaluation Office and UNFPA to brief the Executive Board at the second regular session 2018 on planning for this joint evaluation as part of its contribution to broader collaboration on joint evaluations of system-wide activities and to the function of system-wide independent evaluation measures;

7. *Also recalls* decision 2017/15 and encourages UNFPA management to work with the Evaluation Office to continue its efforts to strengthen the implementation rate and coverage of decentralized evaluations, including exploring strategies to protect budgets for small country offices, and to use the evaluations as learning and knowledge management tools to enhance future programmes;

8. *Strongly encourages* UNFPA, in accordance with Evaluation Policy paragraph 32, to reach the target of allocating 3 per cent of the total UNFPA programme budget to the evaluation function by the end of the period of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021.

8 June 2018

2018/12
Annual report of the UNOPS Executive Director

The Executive Board

1. *Recognizes* the contributions of UNOPS to the operational results of Governments, the United Nations and other partners in 2017, through efficient management support services and effective specialized technical expertise, expanding the implementation capacity for sustainable development;

2. *Takes note* of the successful implementation of the UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2014-2017, and the solid implementation platform established on which to initiate the UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, to support Member States in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (DP/2018/2, Annex 4) and the progress made in implementing recommendations relevant to UNOPS;

4. *Requests* UNOPS to continue to engage with the Secretary-General, other United Nations development system (UNDS) entities and Member States with a view to support full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, including its contribution to a smooth transition and business continuity of the resident coordinator system;

5. *Also requests* UNOPS to present a preliminary analysis of the financial and other implications of resolution 72/279 for UNOPS to the Executive Board at the second regular session 2018;

6. *Further requests* UNOPS, in accordance with resolution 72/279, to provide its contribution to the adequate, predictable and sustainable funding of the resident coordinator system, in line with the forthcoming implementation plan for the inception of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system to be presented to the General Assembly, on an annual basis starting 1 January 2019;

7. *Welcomes* the Executive Director's commitment to implementing General Assembly resolutions 71/243 and 72/279 and in this regard encourages the secretariat of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board to work together with the secretariats of the UNICEF and UN-Women Executive Boards to produce a joint response to the 2018 joint meeting of the Executive Boards segment on working methods by no later than four weeks before the second regular session 2018, allowing for a consultation process among Member States ahead of that session.

8 June 2018

2018/13
Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigations and management responses

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the progress of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS in addressing audit-related management issues in 2017;

2. *Notes with appreciation* efforts to implement outstanding audit recommendations from previous reports, and in particular underscores the importance of progressing with implementing recurring high-priority recommendations;

3. *Recalls* decision 2017/17, in which the Board expressed concern about recurring weaknesses for both UNDP and UNFPA related to programme management, procurement, governance and financial management, notes that similar challenges have been identified in the 2017 reports, and underscores the urgent need to intensify efforts to address these issues;

4. *Also recalls* decision 2015/13 and the request by the Board for the offices of audit and investigation to provide a view on whether the resourcing of their function is appropriate, sufficient and effectively deployed to achieve the desired internal audit coverage;

With regard to UNDP:

5. *Takes note* of the report on internal audit and investigations (document DP/2018/15);

6. *Expresses* continuing support for strengthening the internal audit and investigation functions of UNDP;

7. *Expresses* continuing support for strengthening the internal audit and investigation functions of UNDP, takes note of the annual report of the Audit and Evaluation Advisory Committee, commends UNDP for raising its overall audit opinion to satisfactory, and asks the Office of Audit and Investigation to provide further supporting analysis for such opinions in future annual reports, including the impact of their own risk assessments as well as an analysis of how complaints are reported to the Office of Audit and Investigation;

8. *Requests* UNDP to provide better comparative year-on-year information showing where losses incurred in one year are recovered in a subsequent year, and provide the Board with details, broken down by calendar year, of losses over prior years and cumulative recoveries to date against each year's losses by the second regular session 2018;

9. *Requests* UNDP to provide the Executive Board with an update on the implementation of a comprehensive anti-fraud strategy, including how this will be appropriately resourced from within UNDP, at the first regular session 2019;

10. *Recalls* decision 2017/17 and while welcoming the organization's work on anti-fraud systems and processes and efforts to identify obstacles that are hindering recovery, notes with concern the low levels of defrauded funds recovered in 2017, and urges UNDP to do all it can to ensure the timely recovery of defrauded funds;

11. *Encourages* the Office of Audit and Investigation, building on the existing work and in collaboration with the Administrator and the heads of the associated entities – the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the United Nations Volunteers programme and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation – to ensure that each entity has appropriate oversight, monitoring and risk-management frameworks, in line with UNDP best practice, in particular its fiduciary, transparency and due diligence practices, and to update the Executive Board on this work at the second regular session 2018;

12. *Also requests* UNDP to focus efforts on improving investigation timelines, including related resourcing, noting the increasing number of cases due for investigation carried over from year to year;

13. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Audit and Evaluation Advisory Committee;

With regard to UNFPA:

14. *Takes note* of the report on internal audit and investigation activities of the UNFPA Office of Audit and Investigation Services (DP/FPA/2017/6), the opinion, based on the scope of work undertaken, on the adequacy and effectiveness of the UNFPA framework of governance, risk management and internal control processes, of 'some improvement needed' (DP/FPA/2017/6/Add.1), the annual report of the Audit Advisory Committee (DP/FPA/2017/6/Add.2), and the management response (DP/FPA/2017/CRP.4) thereto and to the present report;

15. *Expresses its continuing support* for the audit and investigation functions at UNFPA, and urges UNFPA to ensure the Office of Audit and Investigation Services is appropriately and sufficiently resourced to deliver its mandates, including ensuring adequate audit coverage and to efficiently handle its caseload of investigations;

16. *Acknowledges and supports* the engagement of the Office of Audit and Investigation Services in joint audit and investigation activities, and encourages continued support to UNFPA management and relevant inter-agency fora in their efforts to address sexual exploitation and sexual harassment,

17. *Welcomes* progress made in implen nting audit recommendations, and urges UNFPA to continue to reduce the number of outstanding audit recommendations and expedite

progress in the areas the opinion identified as requiring improvement, including the integrated control framework, enterprise risk management, organizational structure and staffing, headquarters and regional office support and oversight, programme management, including supply-chain management, implementing partner capacity and financial monitoring, and operations management;

18. *Notes with concern* the apparently limited and slow pace of recovery of losses, and asks UNFPA to complement information provided on cases with further details, broken down by calendar year, of aggregate losses over prior years and cumulative recoveries to date against each year's losses;

19. *Urges* UNFPA to ensure timely follow-up by the relevant disciplinary bodies, including the Vendor Review Committee, to investigation reports issued by Office of Audit and Investigation Services;

20. *Requests* UNFPA to focus efforts on improving investigation timelines, including related resourcing, noting the increasing number of cases due for investigation carried over from year to year.

With regard to UNOPS:

21. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Internal Audit and Investigations Group for 2017 and the management response thereto;

22. *Also takes note* of the progress made in implementation of audit recommendations;

23. *Further takes note* of the overall audit opinion noting 'major improvements needed', based on the scope of work undertaken, on the adequacy and effectiveness of the organization's framework of governance, risk management and control (in line with Executive Board decision 2015/13);

24. *Urges* management to continue to address observations and recommendations made by the internal auditor in order to reduce UNOPS risk exposure and improve the overall audit opinion in future years;

25. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Audit Advisory Committee for 2017 (in line with Executive Board decision 2008/37).

8 June 2018

2018/14
Reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS (DP/2018/16, DP/FPA/2018/7 and DP/OPS/2018/4);

2. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made by the ethics office of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS in strengthening the ethical culture in the three organizations, including training, raising ethics awareness and protection against retaliation, and supports the recommendations made to management;

3. *Requests* the management of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, in collaboration with their ethics offices as well as the heads of the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the United Nations Volunteers programme and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, to ensure that programmes to strengthen ethical culture, including training, raising ethics awareness and protection against retaliation, and combat sexual harassment, are provided, and to provide an update of this work to the Board by its second regular session 2018;

4. *Notes* the importance of well supported and resourced ethics offices, and encourages the management of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to consider further increases in staffing support, reflecting the increased needs of the organizations;

5. *Supports* the 'zero tolerance' of the heads of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS towards sexual harassment, and appreciates the actions UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS have taken so far to prevent and manage sexual harassment, to implement further institutional and cultural changes, and to ensure a joined-up, system-wide, coherent approach;

6. *Requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS management, as required under the Secretary General's report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, to present their respective annual certification to the Executive Board at each annual session, to cover sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment, as appropriate, complementing and strengthening their existing reporting, and to provide updates on progress made in that regard, including working with the United Nations Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate; and further urges UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to consider how to align reporting formats and content with other agencies, where appropriate;

7. *Encourages* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS management to undertake, using existing resources under the integrated budget 2018-2021, an independent victim-centred review of their respective policies and processes on tackling both sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, to review the current practices of the three organizations and provide recommendations on both issues, and requests UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to present the review and associated management responses to the Executive Board at its annual session 2019;

8. *Requests* the UNDP Ethics Office to report on the implementation of the new policy on protection against retaliation for reporting misconduct and for cooperating with duly authorized audits or investigations in its 2019 report.

8 June 2018

2018/15
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2018

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its annual session 2018, it:

Item 1
Organizational matters

Adopted the agenda and approved the workplan for its annual session 2018 (DP/2018/L.2);

Approved the report of the first regular session 2018 (DP/2018/8);

Approved the tentative workplan for the second regular session 2018;

UNDP segment

Item 2
Annual report of the Administrator

Adopted decision 2018/5 on the report of the UNDP Administrator on results for 2017 and progress on the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021.

Item 3
South-South cooperation

Took note of the strategic framework of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, 2018-2021 (DP/CF/SSC/6).

Item 4
Human Development Report

Took note of the update on the Human Development Report consultations.

Item 5
UNDP country programmes and related matters

Approved the following country programmes in accordance with decision 2014/7: Kenya (DP/DCP/KEN/3), Malawi (DP/DCP/MWI/3) and Rwanda (DP/DCP/RWA/2);

Took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Kuwait, Republic of the Congo and Sierra Leone, already approved by the Administrator (DP/2018/11);

Approved the second one-year extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic (DP/2018/11).

Item 6
Evaluation

Adopted decision 2018/6 on UNDP evaluation.

Item 7
United Nations Capital Development Fund

Adopted decision 2018/7 on the report on results achieved by the United Nations Capital Development Fund in 2017.

Item 8
United Nations Volunteers

Adopted decision 2018/8 on the United Nations Volunteers programme: report of the Administrator.

UNFPA segment

Item 9
Consultation on the revised integrated budget, 2018-2021, including change management

Adopted decision 2018/9 on the draft revised UNFPA integrated budget, 2018-2021.

Item 10
Annual report of the UNFPA Executive Director

Adopted decision 2018/10 on the annual report of the UNFPA Executive Director.

Item 11
UNFPA country programmes and related matters

Approved the following country programmes in accordance with decision 2014/7: Kenya (DP/FPA/CPD/KEN/9) and Rwanda (DP/FPA/CPD/RWA/8);
Took note of the first one-year extension of the country programme for Cuba, already approved by the Executive Director; and

Approved the second one-year extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic (DP/FPA/2018/3).

Item 12
UNFPA evaluation

Adopted decision 2018/11 on UNFPA evaluation.

UNOPS segment

Item 13
United Nations Office for Project Services

Adopted decision 2018/12 on the annual report of the UNOPS Executive Director.

Joint segment

Item 15
Internal audit and oversight

Adopted decision 2018/13 on the reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigations and management responses.

Item 16
Reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS

Adopted decision 2018/14 on the reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS.

Item 17
Other matters

Also held the following briefings, informal consultations and special events:

UNDP

UNCDF briefing on findings and lessons learned from recent evaluations;

UNFPA

Tribute to the late Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of UNFPA;
Briefing on population dynamics and sustainable development in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

8 June 2018

2018/16
UNDP structured funding dialogue

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the annual review of the financial situation, 2017 (DP/2018/19 and DP/2018/19 Add.1) and the report on the status of regular resources funding commitments to UNDP and its associated funds and programmes for 2018 and onward (DP/2018/20);

2. *Notes* the importance of regular resources, which remain the bedrock of UNDP support to programme countries, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable, and low-income countries;

3. *Recalls* the importance of funding predictability and urges Member States to prioritize regular resources for 2018 and multi-year pledges, given that further reductions in regular resources risk jeopardizing the ability of UNDP to achieve planned strategic results;

4. *Recalls* its decision 2013/30 and urges all programme countries to meet their obligations with respect to government local office costs;

5. *Encourages* UNDP to continue its efforts to ensure the effective use of resources and also continue to improve efficiency measures and cost savings;

6. *Urges* Member States to continue structured funding dialogues with UNDP in order to improve funding practices to make voluntary funding more predictable, flexible, effective and efficient, less earmarked and better aligned with the national priorities and plans of programme countries;

7. *Requests* UNDP to review the format and content of the annual report on contributions by Member States and others to UNDP, and revenue projections for future years, in order to improve the quality of the structured funding dialogue, including by providing an overview of the funding in relation to funding requirements for the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021, taking into account both regular and other resources;

8. *Welcomes* the efforts of UNDP to align resources to results and encourages UNDP to further increase effectiveness, including reducing transaction costs, for raising resources and ensuring alignment of all resources with programmatic and institutional results as set out in the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021;

9. *Further encourages* UNDP to continue working jointly with UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women to improve collaboration on structured funding dialogues;

10. *Notes* the importance of regular resources both for the United Nations Capital Development Fund and its impact on the least developed countries served and capacity to drive innovation and capital investment flexibility, and for the United Nations Volunteers programme promoting peace and development through volunteerism, both valuable United Nations system-wide assets administered by UNDP;

11. *Welcomes* the commitment of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, in close collaboration with the Secretary-General's transition team and other programmes, funds and specialized agencies, to implement General Assembly resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system; also welcomes the updates provided with preliminary analysis of the financial and other implications of the resolution and requests UNDP to continue to engage with the Executive Board in this regard, providing regular updates as from 2019;

12. *Recalls* decision 2018/5 and requests UNDP to double its contribution to the existing United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) cost-sharing arrangement, in accordance with resolution 72/279, to deposit its 2019 contribution as soon as possible, taking

into account the Secretary-General's implementation plan, in order to operationalize the new resident coordinator system from 1 January 2019, and to report on progress in this regard to the Executive Board at the annual session 2019;

13. *Requests* that UNDP, as part of the UNSDG, collaborate with the Secretary-General's transition team to support the establishment of a system-wide approach to implementing all the funding modalities set out in resolution 72/279, including the levy, and to report to the Executive Board at the first regular session 2019;

14. *Requests* that UNDP present clear, transparent information on its contribution to resident coordinator funding modalities to the Executive Board at the annual session 2019;

15. *Calls on* UNDP to review its planning, financing and results reporting processes to ensure effective joint collaboration in the context of the revitalized United Nations Development Assistance Framework, and to provide an update at the next session of the Executive Board on adjustments required.

7 September 2018

2018/17
UNDP evaluation

The Executive Board

With regard to the evaluation of UNDP inter-agency pooled financing services (DP/2018/23) and the management response thereto (DP/2018/24):

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the evaluation's conclusions, including that the work of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office is highly regarded by donors and participating organizations for its strong fund design and administration capability, high credibility to collect and make known "best practices", setting standards for other organizations providing administrative agent services;

2. *Takes note* of the evaluation's conclusions and recommendations and the management response;

3. *Notes* the importance of increasing the amounts of funding through United Nations pooled funding arrangements and the effectiveness of United Nations programming supported by pooled funding in the context of implementing General Assembly resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

4. *Further requests* that UNDP, in accordance with the evaluation recommendations, take measures in collaboration with United Nations entities to ensure improved results focus, monitoring and support to ensure quality in implementation of programmes supported by pooled funding, including at the country level, and provide an update to the Board on measures to ensure capacities and performance as managing agent, as fund manager and as implementing organization;

5. *Requests* that the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office expedite new procedures to review all fund proposals for compliance with relevant United Nations guidance on gender equality and empowerment of women;

6. *Takes note* of recommendation 8 of the evaluation and the management response and requests the MPTF Office to convene periodic multi-stakeholder discussion forums to review progress and discuss trends in global financing and strategies on the way forward, strengthen

partner engagement and reinforce the confidence of donors and partner organizations in the mechanism and its use;

7. *Further requests* that the MPTF Office make information on new opportunities available at an early stage to all interested potential partners, including potential participating organizations, funding partners and host government institutions, as relevant for the individual initiatives;

8. *Acknowledges* that UNDP has recently launched new guidelines and responsible party agreement for the managing agent function under humanitarian funds, and that programme and operations policies and procedures have been updated accordingly;

With regard to the evaluation of UNDP inter-agency operational services (DP/2018/25) and the management response thereto (DP/2018/26):

9. *Takes note of* the timeliness and relevance of evaluating UNDP inter-agency operational services concurrent to the roll out of the Secretary-General's repositioning effort for the United Nations development system;

10. *Acknowledges* that UNDP management and operational support services are vital to UNDP growth and positioning as the backbone of the United Nations development system;

11. *Takes note* of the evaluation's conclusions and recommendations and the management response and urges UNDP to take action to address all of the evaluation's recommendations;

12. *Urges* UNDP to develop a clear vision refining its role vis-à-vis the United Nations development system reform to serve United Nations entities with improved customer orientation and quality of services;

13. *Also urges* UNDP to develop a phased approach to invest in information and communication technology tools and systems improvements over the next five years and ensure that critical staff and an effective strategy are in place to harvest such investments;

14. *Acknowledges* that UNDP is already undertaking action to improve, evolve and innovate its business model that includes inter-agency operational services;

15. *Requests* UNDP to develop a transparent pricing system for its management and operational support services to United Nations entities, including to the new resident coordinator system;

16. *Further requests* UNDP to promote shared integrated service arrangements with a view to harmonizing agency-specific business practices, processes and reporting, including resource planning systems, as part of the Business Innovation Group under the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, guided by the principles of complementarity and comparative advantage of United Nations entities.

7 September 2018

2018/18
UNFPA structured funding dialogue

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report on contributions by Member States and others to UNFPA and revenue projections for 2018 and future years (DP/FPA/2018/10), including the addendum with the UNFPA proposal on structured funding dialogues (DP/FPA/2018/10/Add.1);

2. *Emphasizes* that UNFPA needs strong political and increased financial support as well as predictable regular resources, in order to enhance its assistance to countries, to implement its Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, to fully integrate the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development into national development strategies and frameworks, to

achieve the internationally agreed development goals, and to support countries in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3. *Reiterates* that regular resources are the bedrock of UNFPA and essential to maintaining the multilateral, neutral and universal nature of its mandate and to carrying out its work, and encourages UNFPA to further mobilize these resources while continuing to mobilize supplementary resources for thematic funds and programmes;

4. *Encourages* all Member States to increase their contributions to regular resources, not least to ensure that UNFPA can cover the current critical gap in core revenue, and also encourages countries in a position to do so to make contributions during the first half of the year and to make multi-year pledges in order to ensure effective programming;

5. *Also encourages* all donor countries to commit to multi-year pledges in order to ensure effective programming and all programme country Governments, where possible, to expand their contributions to programmes in their own countries;

6. *Encourages* UNFPA to continue its efforts to ensure the effective use of resources and also continue to improve efficiency measures and cost savings;

7. *Reaffirms* the voluntary nature of funding of UNFPA, appreciates the progress and improvements by UNFPA to its structured funding dialogue, and welcomes the proposal to the Executive Board on the structured funding dialogue, as presented in the addendum of this report, without prejudging the outcome of the Secretary-General's funding compact, and in this regard:

(a) *Requests* UNFPA to review the format and content of the annual report on contributions by Member States and others to UNFPA and revenue projections for future years, in order to improve the quality of the structured funding dialogue, including by providing an overview of the funding in relation to the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, taking into account both regular and other resources;

(b) *Encourages* UNFPA to further consolidate the funding architecture, with a view to aligning resources with programmatic results, as set out in the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021;

(c) *Further encourages* UNFPA to continue working jointly with UNDP, UNICEF and UN-Women to improve collaboration on structured funding dialogues;

8. *Welcomes* the commitment of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, in close collaboration with the Secretary-General's transition team and other programmes, funds and specialized agencies, to implement General Assembly resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, also welcomes the updates provided with the preliminary analysis of the financial and other implications of the resolution, and requests UNFPA to continue to engage with the Executive Board in this regard, providing regular updates as from 2019;

9. *Recalls* decision 2018/10 and requests UNFPA to double its contribution to the existing United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) cost-sharing arrangement, in accordance with resolution 72/279, to deposit its 2019 contribution as soon as possible, taking into account the Secretary-General's implementation plan, in order to operationalize the new resident coordinator system from 1 January 2019, and to report on progress in this regard to the Executive Board at the annual session 2019;

10. *Requests* that UNFPA, as part of the UNSDG, collaborate with the Secretary-General's transition team to support the establishment of a system-wide approach to implementing all the funding modalities set out in resolution 72/279, including the levy, and to report to the Executive Board at the first regular session 2019;

11. *Requests* that UNFPA present clear, transparent information on its contribution to resident coordinator funding modalities to the Executive Board at the annual session 2019;

12. *Calls on* UNFPA to review its planning, financing and results reporting processes to ensure effective joint collaboration in the context of the revitalized United Nations Development Assistance Framework, and to provide an update at the next session of the Executive Board on adjustments required.

7 September 2018

2018/19
Revised UNFPA integrated budget, 2018-2021

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the revised UNFPA integrated budget, 2018-2021 (DP/FPA/2018/8) and its corrigendum (DP/FPA/2018/8/Corr.1), in response to decision 2017/4, and its alignment with the approved UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 (DP/FPA/2017/9);

2. *Welcomes* the improved results focus and the enhanced linkages with the strategic plan results and harmonized methodology and presentation, including cost classification, attribution and recovery;

3. *Commends* UNFPA for the consultative, inclusive and transparent process in presenting the revised integrated budget, 2018-2021;

4. *Takes note* of the results and resource requirements reflected in the estimates for the UNFPA integrated budget, 2018-2021, including linkages of results and resources, as contained in documents DP/FPA/2018/8 and DP/FPA/2018/8/Corr.1;

5. *Approves* the presentation of activities and associated costs reflected in documents DP/FPA/2018/8 and DP/FPA/2018/8/Corr.1;

6. *Also approves* gross resources in the amount of $708.2 million, representing the revised institutional budget estimates for 2018-2021, noting that these estimates include an amount of $155.6 million for indirect cost recovery from other resources;

7. *Authorizes* $152.5 million of the projected regular resources, as a revised ceiling for global and regional interventions for 2018-2021, noting that this amount cannot be exceeded without approval by the Executive Board;

8. *Recalls* Executive Board decision 2015/3, approves a revised amount of $22.5 million of regular resources for the UNFPA emergency fund, and reaffirms the existing authorization for the UNFPA Executive Director to increase the emergency fund by up to $2 million beyond the ceiling in a given year if the number and extent of the emergencies so warrant;

9. *Endorses* the proposal of the UNFPA Executive Director, similar to decisions 2008/6, 2012/13, 2013/32 and 2017/24, decides to grant exceptional authority during 2018-2021 to access up to an additional $5.4 million in regular resources for security measures, provided these are used for new and emerging security mandates, as defined by the directives of the United Nations Department of Safety and Security, and requests UNFPA to report to the Executive Board on the use of those funds in its annual statistical and financial review;

10. *Also endorses* the proposal of the UNFPA Executive Director and approves the use of the existing Reserve for Field Accommodation for headquarters premises until the establishment of the Premises Capital Plan.

7 September 2018

2018/20
United Nations Office for Project Services

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the annual statistical report on United Nations procurement, 2017 (DP/OPS/2018/5);

2. *Welcomes* the high-quality and informative presentation of the system-wide procurement data on behalf of the United Nations system at the United Nations Global Marketplace website (http://www.ungm.org/Public/ASR);

3. *Recognizes* that transparency is one of the central principles of the United Nations system entities' procurement and welcomes the level of detail, data and analysis provided by UNOPS in the annual statistical report on United Nations procurement;

4. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution of 69/273 of 2 April 2015 on procurement and reaffirms the need for the United Nations procurement system to be transparent, open, impartial and cost-effective, based on a competitive procedure and fully reflecting the international character of the United Nations

5. *Further recalls* resolution 69/273 and stresses that best value for money; fairness, integrity and transparency; effective international competition; and the interest of the United Nations remain the four general principles for United Nations procurement

6. *Recalls* its decision 2016/20 and requests UNOPS and other United Nations entities to elaborate their measures as well as progress for the purpose of increasing procurement from developing countries, countries with economies in transition and least developed countries in the annual statistical reports in the future;

7. *Welcomes* the commitment of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, in close collaboration with the Secretary-General's transition team and other programmes, funds and specialized agencies, to implement General Assembly resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system; also welcomes the updates provided with preliminary analysis of the financial and other implications of the resolution and requests UNOPS to continue to engage with the Executive Board in this regard, providing regular updates as from 2019;

8. *Recalls* decision 2018/5 and requests UNOPS to double its contribution to the existing United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) cost-sharing arrangement, in accordance with resolution 72/279, to deposit its 2019 contribution as soon as possible, taking into account the Secretary-General's implementation plan, in order to operationalize the new resident coordinator system from 1 January 2019, and to report on progress in this regard to the Executive Board at the annual session 2019;

9. *Requests* that UNOPS, as part of the UNSDG, collaborate with the Secretary-General's transition team to support the establishment of a system-wide approach to implementing all the funding modalities set out in resolution 72/279, including the levy, and to report to the Executive Board at the first regular session 2019;

10. *Requests* that UNOPS present clear, transparent information on its contribution to resident coordinator funding modalities to the Executive Board at the annual session 2019;

11. *Calls on* UNOPS to review its planning, financing and results reporting processes to ensure effective joint collaboration in the context of the revitalized United Nations Development Assistance Framework, and to provide an update at the next session of the Executive Board on adjustments required.

7 September 2018

2018/21
Joint report on cost recovery

The Executive Board

1. *Recalls* Executive Board decision 2013/9, which endorsed the current harmonized cost-recovery policy, and in this regard recognizes and welcomes the efforts of UNDP and UNFPA, together with UNICEF and UN-Women, in implementing the policy;

2. *Recalls* Executive Board decisions 2017/11 and 2017/14, in which the Executive Board directed the agencies to implement the cost-recovery policy and ensure full cost recovery proportionally from regular and other resources funding sources, and provide incentives to increase regular resources funding;

3. *Takes note* of the report DP/FPA/ICEF-UNW/2018/1 and the two proposals for the recovery of indirect costs presented therein;

4. *Notes* paragraph 28 (d) of General Assembly resolution 72/279, which calls for a further harmonization of cost recovery by individual United Nations development system entities, and in this regard commends UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women for their harmonized cost-recovery framework, and further encourages them to work with other entities of the United Nations development system, after due consideration by their respective governing bodies, to adopt a harmonized cost-recovery framework;

5. *Requests* UNDP and UNFPA, together with UNICEF and UN-Women, to jointly review existing cost definitions and classifications of activities and associated costs, with a view to further harmonize their approaches by determining common definitions of cost categories and corresponding activities and functions at a granular level, while taking into account the different business models of the individual agencies – which allows for a full understanding of each category's composition and options for possible alignment of similar functions to the same cost classifications across agencies, and continues to provide a basis for comparisons among organizations as well as alignment with the strategic plans of the organizations – to be presented to the Executive Board for decision at its second regular session in 2019;

6. *Reaffirms* in this regard the harmonized cost-recovery policy endorsed by the Executive Board in its decision 2013/9, and requests UNDP and UNFPA, together with UNICEF and UN-Women, to present a preliminary comprehensive proposal on the cost-recovery policy for consideration by the Executive Board at its first regular session in 2020, with a view to present a final comprehensive proposal for decision of the Executive Board at its second regular session in 2020;

7. *Requests* UNDP and UNFPA, together with UNICEF and UN-Women, to reduce the granting of waivers lowering the agreed cost-recovery rates and to provide an update on the steps taken in this regard, including on the application of waivers across their organizations, to the Executive Board at its annual session in 2019;

8. *Requests* UNDP and UNFPA, together with UNICEF and UN-Women, to review in a comprehensive manner cost-recovery rates, as part of the comprehensive proposal;

9. *Requests* UNDP and UNFPA, together with UNICEF and UN-Women, to present an assessment of the reasons why full cost recovery is not currently being achieved, as part of the comprehensive proposal.

7 September 2018

2018/22
Working methods of the Executive Board

The Executive Board

1. *Reaffirms* the rules of procedure of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the joint response prepared by the secretariats of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP to the 2018 joint meeting of the Executive Boards segment on working methods of the Executive Boards;

3. *Requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to submit draft decisions at least two weeks prior to each session so that they are available at the pre-session, and strongly encourages the Bureau to appoint, at that time, the facilitators for the respective draft decisions, in full respect to equitable regional representation, and in this regard strongly encourages Member States to provide their comments on draft decisions, if possible, prior to the start of the session, with a view to starting informal consultations on the draft decisions on the first day of the session;

4. *Requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS and their membership to make efforts to start all meetings, informal consultations and negotiations on time and to ensure that meetings, informal consultations and negotiations are planned during United Nations working hours and avoid parallel consultations, to better facilitate the effective and constructive participation of all Member States in the work of the Board;

5. *Also requests* that the secretariat of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS identify a set of common agenda items, together with UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP, with a view to harmonize the consideration of those agenda items with these agencies, beginning from the first regular session 2019 onwards;

6. *Further requests* the secretariat of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to develop, in consultation with UNICEF and UN-Women, a joint online calendar of all Board meetings, to be updated in real time and made available to the Executive Board;

7. *Requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS management to provide a written response to questions raised at informal consultations before the start of the following formal sessions;

8. *Requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to enhance documentation in order to make it more strategic and analytical, and to include best practices, actions being taken to address lessons learned, challenges and risks, building on the interactions with the Board, as appropriate;

9. *Requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to further enhance accessibility and ensure that Executive Board document file names are clearly spelled out and indicate the documents' content, that these documents can be downloaded in their entirety by agency and that they include full text searchability;

10. *Requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to engage with the Executive Board, and with UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP, on the efficient and effective implementation of the guidelines for Executive Board field visits and reporting requirements;

11. *Requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS and the Bureau to give due consideration to gender balance in panels for all meetings;

12. *Requests* the Bureau of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, in collaboration with the bureaux of UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP, to launch a joint consultative process with Member States, starting at the first regular session 2019, with a view to examining the efficiency and quality of its current sessions, as well as the functions of the joint meeting of the Boards, building on the joint response prepared by the secretariats.

7 September 2018

2018/23
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its second regular session 2018

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its second regular session 2018, it:

Item 1
Organizational matters

Adopted the agenda and approved the workplan for its second regular session 2018 (DP/2018/L.3);

Approved the report of the annual session 2018 (DP/2018/17);

Approved the tentative workplan for the first regular session 2019.

UNDP segment

Item 2
UNDP structured funding dialogue

Adopted decision 2018/16 on the UNDP structured funding dialogue.

Item 3
Gender at UNDP

Took note of the UNDP gender equality strategy, 2018-2021 (DP/2018/21).

Item 4
UNDP country programmes and related matters

Approved the following country programmes in accordance with decision 2014/7:

Africa: Benin (DP/DCP/BEN/3); Equatorial Guinea (DP/DCP/GNQ/3); Lesotho (DP/DCP/LSO/3); Namibia (DP/DCP/NAM/3); Senegal (DP/DCP/SEN/3); South Sudan (DP/DCP/SSD/3);

Asia and the Pacific: Bhutan (DP/DCP/BTN/2); Philippines (DP/DCP/PHL/3);

Arab States: Libya (DP/DCP/LBY/3);

Took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes of the country programmes for Cuba and Mexico from 1 January to 31 December 2019, already approved by the Administrator (DP/2018/22 and Corr.1);

Approved the second one-year extension of the country programme for Liberia from 1 January to 31 December 2019 (DP/2018/22 and Corr.1).

Item 5
Evaluation

Adopted decision 2018/17 on UNDP evaluation.

UNFPA segment

Item 6
UNFPA structured funding dialogue

Adopted decision 2018/18 on the UNFPA structured funding dialogue.

Item 7
UNFPA integrated budget, 2018-2021

Adopted decision 2018/19 on the revised UNFPA integrated budget, 2018-2021.

Item 8
UNFPA country programme and related matters

Approved the following country programmes, in accordance with decision 2014/7:

Africa: Benin (DP/FPA/CPD/BEN/9); Burundi (DP/FPA/CPD/BDI/8); Equatorial Guinea (DP/FPA/CPD/GNQ/7); Lesotho (DP/FPA/CPD/LSO/7); Malawi (DP/FPA/CPD/MWI/8); Namibia DP/FPA/CPD/NAM/6); Senegal (DP/FPA/CPD/SEN/8), South Sudan (DP/FPA/CPD/SSD/3), Togo (DP/FPA/CPD/TGO/7);

Arab States: Libya (DP/FPA/CPD/LBY/1);

Asia and the Pacific: Bhutan (DP/FPA/CPD/BTN/7); Philippines (DP/FPA/CPD/PHL/8);

Americas and the Caribbean: Ecuador (DP/FPA/CPD/ECU/7); Nicaragua (DP/FPA/CPD/NIC/9);

Took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Comoros, the Republic of the Congo and Mexico (DP/FPA/2018/11);

Approved the second one-year extensions of the country programmes for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia (DP/FPA/2018/11).

UNOPS segment

Item 9
United Nations Office for Project Services

Adopted decision 2018/20 on the United Nations Office for Project Services;

Took note of the UNOPS response to the Joint Inspection Unit review of management and administration in the United Nations Office for Project Services (DP/OPS/2018/6).

Joint segment

Item 10
Follow-up to UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting

Took note of the report on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (DP/2018/27 – DP/FPA/2018/12).

Item 11
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Adopted decision 2018/21 on the joint report on cost recovery.

Item 12
Working methods of the Executive Board

Adopted decision 2018/22 on the working methods of the Executive Board.

Item 13
Field visits

Took note of the report on the joint field visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP to Uganda (DP/FPA/OPS-ICEF-UNW-WFP/2018/CRP.1) and of the report on the Executive Board field visit to Haiti (DP/FPA/OPS/2018/CRP.1).

Item 14
Other matters

Heard a statement by the Chairperson of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS/UN-Women Staff Council;

Also held the following briefings, informal consultations and special events:

UNDP

Briefing on the preliminary analysis of the financial and other implications of the United Nations development system reform for UNDP;

UNFPA

Briefing on the preliminary analysis of the financial and other implications of the United Nations development system reform for UNFPA;

Special briefing entitled "Women and girls first: putting gender-based violence in emergencies at the centre of humanitarian assistance in Asia and the Pacific region";

UNOPS

Briefing on the preliminary analysis of the financial and other implications of the United Nations development system reform for UNOPS.

7 September 2018

TENTATIVE WORKPLAN
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION 2019
(21 – 25 January 2019, New York)

Day/Date	*Time*	*Item*	*Subject*
Monday, 21 January	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.	1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS • Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the session • Adoption of the report of the second regular session 2018 • Adoption of the annual workplan 2019 of the Executive Board **UNDP SEGMENT** INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR
	3 – 5:45 p.m.		INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR (cont'd)
	5:45 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Tuesday, 22 January	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.	2	EVALUATION • Evaluation of UNDP support to least developed countries for poverty reduction, and management response • Report on the Independent Evaluation Office support to national evaluation capacity development
		3	COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS • Presentation and approval of country programme documents • Extensions of country programmes
	3– 5:30: p.m.	6	**UNOPS SEGMENT** STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
	5:30 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Wednesday, 23 January	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.		**UNFPA SEGMENT** STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
	3 – 5:45 p.m.	4	STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (cont'd) EVALUATION • Revised evaluation policy
	5:45 - 6p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Thursday, 24 January	10 a.m.–1 p.m.	5	COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS • Presentation and approval of country programme documents • Extensions of country programmes

Day/Date	*Time*	*Item*	*Subject*
Friday, 25 January	3 – 5:45 p.m.		**JOINT SEGMENT**
		7	RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS • Report of UNDP on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2017 • UNFPA report on the follow-up to the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors for 2017: Status of implementation of recommendations • Report of UNOPS on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2017
	5:45 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		**JOINT SEGMENT (cont'd)**
		8	UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 72/279 ON REPOSITIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM
		9	WORKING METHODS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
	3 – 6 p.m.	10	OTHER MATTERS • Adoption of pending decisions
		1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS • Adoption of the tentative workplan for the annual session 2019